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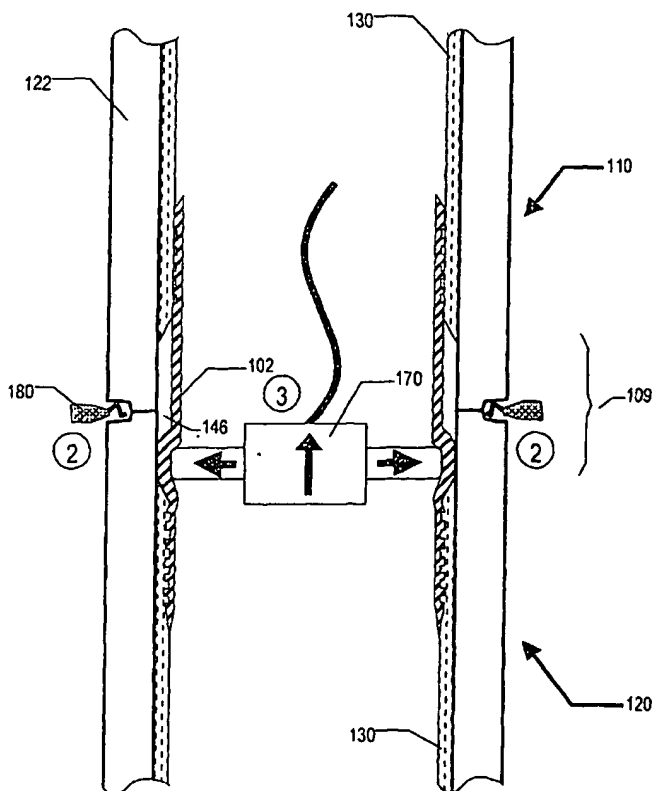
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(54) Title: METHOD OF AND APPARATUS FOR INTERCONNECTING LINED PIPES



(57) Abstract: There are disclosed methods of and apparatus for interconnecting lined metal pipes (110, 120), applying in particular to the offshore oil and gas industry. Corrosion is a common problem in the industry. Lining pipes overcomes the problem, but welding sections of pipe together can be a complicated and time-consuming task, requiring dedicated and sophisticated tooling. More desirable is the ability to use conventional pipe-laying equipment (20, 40, 50, 60, 70, 80, 90) with little additional tooling. As such, there are disclosed methods and apparatus compatible with known offshore connection methods, particularly where the spacing of joints on the pipe is less than 100m. The chosen technique will not significantly impact the laying rate of the lined pipe, compared with unlined pipe. The method includes connecting lined pipes (110, 120) using a corrosion-resistant bridging member (102) internally overlapping both linings, leaving a void space (146) behind the weld region (109) while at least the initial stages of welding (180) are performed, and expanding (170) the bridging member to provide a seal against the liners, in a controlled sequence. There is also disclosed a bridging member (102), tooling (170) and pipelay apparatus suitable for use with this method.



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Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

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C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

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Y	US 6 213 686 B1 (BAUGH BENTON F) 10 April 2001 (2001-04-10) the whole document ---	13-16
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Information on patent family members

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